



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 14 August 2007

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

<http://www.dhs.gov/>

Daily Highlights

- InformationWeek reports law enforcement officials have arrested at least 10 people since the beginning of the year for their roles in using stolen information to commit fraud, after the theft of 45.7 million customer records from TJX. (See item [6](#))
- The Associated Press reports a 25–pound chunk from United Express Flight 7350, a commuter jet headed to Washington's Dulles International Airport, landed in a grassy area between houses and soccer fields near Boyds, Maryland. (See item [12](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *August 13, Associated Press* — **Kazakhstan buys Westinghouse stake.** Kazakh state nuclear fuel company Kazatomprom will buy 10 percent of Westinghouse Electric Co. LLC from Toshiba Corp. for \$540 million, the companies said Monday, August 13. Kazatomprom plans to use the deal to enter new export markets for its uranium fuel, the companies said. Kazatomprom is the third–largest uranium producer in the world and aims to become the leading uranium miner by 2010 with planned output of over 15,000 tons. Kazatomprom Chief Executive Mukhtar Dzhakishev declined to say with how much uranium and nuclear fuel his company plans to supply U.S. nuclear reactor manufacturer Westinghouse. Toshiba will keep a 67

percent stake in Monroeville, PA-based Westinghouse, which it bought from UK's British Nuclear Fuels PLC last year for \$4.2 billion.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2007/08/13/ap4014546.html>

2. *August 10, Platts Energy Bulletin* — **Utah mine accident renews talk of new regulations, tougher recruiting.** The accident at the Crandall Canyon mine in Utah has once again put the U.S. coal industry in the headlines of major newspapers. The discussion has already begun over the possible effects of the catastrophe on the future of coal mining in Utah and across the country. A mining expert at the University of Utah told Platts that there could be several consequences for the entire U.S. coal industry from the Crandall Canyon mine accident, such as a rash of new federal and state safety regulations, higher mining costs, and fewer willing recruits. "As to whether coal mines will experience greater regulation in the wake of the Crandall Canyon mine incident depends entirely on what caused the collapse," said Kim McCarter, a professor and chair of the Department of Mining Engineering at the university. He added that it will likely be weeks or months before an answer will be available. National Mining Association spokesperson Luke Popovich said it is too early to make conclusions about whether the Utah mining accident will have any effect on hiring trends.

Source: <http://www.platts.com/Coal/News/6421732.xml?p=Coal/News&sub=Coal>

3. *August 10, Associated Press* — **LNG plant gets environmental approval.** Federal energy regulators have given an environmental clearance to a proposed liquefied natural gas terminal on the Gulf Coast of Texas. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) staff said Friday, August 10, that the terminal, which would accommodate about 120 ships annually, would not pose a detrimental environmental impact, partly because it is to be built in an industrial area, Port Lavaca, about 130 miles southwest of Houston. Energy industry executives regard LNG as a vital step in keeping up with the demand for natural gas in the United States. FERC still needs to give its final approval to the project before it can be built.

Source: http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070810/calhoun_lng.html?.v=1

4. *August 10, San Diego Union-Tribune (CA)* — **Approval sought by SDG&E to buy plant.** San Diego Gas & Electric said on Thursday, August 9, that it has applied for regulatory approval to purchase a Nevada power plant owned by Sempra Energy, its parent company, for \$189 million. The local utility said the purchase of the plant emerged as the best option from a recent round of competitive bidding that it conducted to meet growing electricity demand in the region. The purchase would be completed in 2011 and appears to be a setback to plans for a power plant adjacent to Santee at the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, which would have provided similar electric generation capacity. Located about 40 miles southwest of Las Vegas, the El Dorado plant began operations seven years ago and has the capacity to produce about 480 megawatts, or enough to power more than 300,000 homes. SDG&E said that its request for bids to supply electricity in March yielded one other competitive offer. But the utility said that the El Dorado option was far better.

Source: http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/business/20070810-9999-1b_10power.html

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

5. *August 13, VNUNet* — **Biotesting Europe project aims to cut ID theft.** UK scientists at the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) have confirmed that they will take part in a pan-European project targeting ID theft. The initiative, dubbed Biotesting Europe, is part-funded by the European Union. Its principal aim is to enhance biometric recognition systems that measure unique behavioral or physical traits to recognize people. These can be as varied as iris images, fingerprints, the structure of veins in the hand, or even an individual's typing rhythm. The scientists note that such systems are currently predominantly used in national government systems for border control or criminal justice, but believe they could equally be used in a domestic context to reduce identity theft. The results that emerge from Biotesting Europe will provide a "clear direction" for the future development of shared resources for biometric testing, NPL scientists believe.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2196498/biotesting-europe-project-aims>

6. *August 13, InformationWeek* — **Stolen TJX data has surfaced in two cases in Florida.** While the culprit(s) who stole 45.7 million customer records from TJX remains at large and unknown, law enforcement officials have arrested at least 10 people since the beginning of the year for their roles in using that stolen information to commit fraud. In July, the U.S. Secret Service announced the arrest of four Floridians. They're charged with aggravated identity theft, counterfeit credit card trafficking, and conspiracy. In March, the Gainesville Police Department and Florida Department of Law Enforcement caught six people with fake credit cards, created using stolen TJX data, who had bought \$8 million worth of gift cards at Wal-Mart and Sam's Club stores in 50 of Florida's 67 counties. Additional evidence suggests that TJX's exposure to fraud is likely worse than these two high-profile cases indicate. In January, Visa's director of fraud control e-mailed financial institutions that the data theft involved millions of card accounts across all major payment brands accepted by TJX. The e-mail also stated that 77 percent of the fraudulent transactions using stolen TJX customer information took place in the United States, particularly in California, Florida, Illinois, New York, and Texas.

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/security/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=NYO1UDFBHG0Y0QSNDLPCKHSCJUNN2JVN?articleID=201400172>

7. *August 13, Guardian Unlimited (UK)* — **Facebook's code leak raises fears of fraud.** Experts are warning Internet users to be more careful with their private information after secret code from the popular social-networking site Facebook was published on the Internet. This is the first time that some of the site's secret operational code has been made public. Although it does not allow hackers to access private information directly, it could help criminals close in on personal data, according to one expert. Nik Cubrilovic, of Techcrunch.com, said: "This leak is

not good news for Facebook, as it raises the question of how secure a user's private data really is. Facebook has become such a success and has such a high profile that it has become a magnet for attacks against its systems."

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/2007/aug/13/internet>

8. *August 13, Associated Press* — **Major world markets rebound.** Major world markets rebounded Monday, August 13, regaining some territory lost in a global plunge last week, as central banks continued a steady supply of liquidity to soothe rattled investors. Minutes after Wall Street opened in the United States, the Fed said that it would add at least \$2 billion in liquidity in a one-day repurchase. The European Central Bank, which injected another \$65.3 billion into the banking system to ease fear in the credit markets, said conditions were "normalizing" — but some analysts said the bounce could be a short one with continuing worries about a credit crunch.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/13/AR2007081300048.html>

9. *August 10, ComputerWorld UK* — **Visa applicants' personal details revealed to hackers over the Web.** An investigation into a security bug on a Website used to apply for UK visas has painted a damning picture of "organizational failures" by a government agency and its contractor. The online UK visa application Website for people in India, Russia and Nigeria was provided by VFS Global, a commercial partner of the joint Foreign Office and Home Office agency, UKVisas. Ministers pledged an inquiry after the site was closed down in May following publicity over the security bug, which made personal details of visa applicants easily accessible to hackers. The report by independent investigator Linda Costelloe Baker slams UKVisas' outsourcing of the online service to a firm that is not an IT specialist, the contractor's performance, and the failure to respond adequately when the security hole was first revealed by Indian national Sanjib Mitra in December 2005. UKVisas "reacted inadequately" to notifications of the data security vulnerability from three people, the investigation found. VFS took "some remedial action in January 2006" after the flaw was first revealed, but this appeared to have been ineffective in solving the problem. Mitra went public when the bug remained unfixed 18 months later.

Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9030018&source=rss_topic85

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

10. *August 13, Associated Press* — **Bridge inspections begin in Maryland.** The Maryland Transportation Authority (MdTA) will start the first re-inspections of seven bridges on Monday, August 13. An agency spokesperson says the agency is adding three more to a previous list for extra inspections in the aftermath of the recent bridge collapse in Minnesota. At first, MdTA planned to re-inspect four bridges, including the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. It has two spans and is counted as two of the initial four to be inspected. Plans also called for reinspections of the Susquehanna River bridge on Interstate 95 and Route 40. The three other bridges that have been added include: the Key Bridge on the Baltimore Beltway, the Route 301 bridge over the Potomac River, and the bridge on Interstate 895 south of the Harbor Tunnel toll

plaza.

Source: http://www.wusa9.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=61670

11. *August 13, Associated Press* — **Computer glitch fixed at LAX.** A computer failure that left thousands of travelers trapped on planes and stuck for hours in the terminal at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) was fixed, and flights were back to normal Monday, August 13. The computer malfunction, which began at 2 p.m. PDT Saturday, August 11, and lasted nearly 10 hours, prevented authorities from screening passengers arriving in the U.S. It delayed more than 17,000 people arriving from overseas. U.S. Customs and Border Protection spokesperson Mike Fleming said a computer switch failed, which knocked down the entire communications system. A backup system was in place, but it was accessible only to customs officers in some of the lanes where passengers were being processed, creating huge bottlenecks.

Source: http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/L/LAX_BACKUP?SITE=WUSA&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

12. *August 13, Associated Press* — **Airplane debris lands in Maryland park.** A 25-pound chunk from a commuter jet headed to Washington's Dulles International Airport landed in a grassy area between houses and soccer fields near Boyds, MD, that often are full of children. United Express Flight 7350, which was traveling from Hartford, CT, apparently shed the small door that retracts when the wheels emerge before landing, airline officials said. "The landing gear door is not necessary to land the plane," United Airlines spokesperson Robin Urbanski said. "Customers on the flight were always safe." The Federal Aviation Administration was to pick up the piece of debris from police Monday and try to figure out why it fell off, said spokesperson Laura Brown.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2007-08-13-airplane-debris_N.htm

13. *August 12, Associated Press* — **Man tries to take crocs, snakes on plane.** A man was stopped at Cairo, Egypt's airport just moments before he boarded a Saudi Arabia-bound plane with carry-on bags filled with live snakes, as well as a few baby crocodiles and chameleons. Security officials became suspicious of the 22-year-old Saudi man's bags when the X-ray machine at the departure gate gave odd readings. Police said they opened the bags and found a large number of reptiles, including at least one cobra, squirming to escape. The animals were confiscated and turned over to the Cairo Zoo and the man was allowed to board his flight home. In May, another Saudi man was caught at the Cairo airport carrying 700 live snakes in his carry-on luggage.

Source: http://www.boston.com/news/odd/articles/2007/08/12/saudi_man_takes_crocs_snakes_on_a_plane/

14. *August 10, Department of Homeland Security* — **DHS: Fact Sheet: Improving border security and immigration within existing law.** On Friday, August 10, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Michael Chertoff and Department of Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez announced a series of reforms the administration will pursue to address border security and immigration challenges. The reforms represent steps the Administration can take within the boundaries of existing law to secure our borders more effectively, improve interior and worksite enforcement, streamline existing guest worker programs, improve the current immigration system, and help new immigrants assimilate into American culture.

Source: http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1186757867585.shtm

15. *August 10, Department of Transportation* — **Department of Transportation announces \$35 million for new buses in New Orleans, and other transit aid.** Department of Transportation Deputy Thomas Barrett on Friday, August 10, announced \$35 million in Hurricanes Katrina and Rita relief to help meet public transit needs in the Gulf Coast, including \$10 million to aid the city of New Orleans in replacing its destroyed bus fleet. The \$35 million in funds will support operating and capital costs for 19 transit agencies in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Texas, and Florida, announced Deputy Secretary Barrett following a tour of a bus maintenance facility in New Orleans.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot8007.htm>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

16. *August 11, Times Record (TX)* — **Powder in mail room causes lockdown.** Emergency personnel were called to the Texas Youth Commission facility several miles south of Vernon, TX, Friday, August 10, when suspicious white powder was found in the mail room. Wilbarger County Sheriff Larry Lee said three cadets at the facility received mail containing the powder. He said three employees came into direct contact with the substance. Two of them suffered minor breathing problems. All three went through a decontamination process at the facility and were taken to Wilbarger General Hospital for evaluation. Lee said they were taken to the hospital as a precautionary measure. The facility for teens in trouble with the law was placed on lockdown. About 100 cadets and personnel were affected. The sheriff said none of the cadets came in contact with the substance, but were included because of possible contamination through the ventilation system.

Source: http://www.timesrecordnews.com/trn/local_news/article/0,1891,TRN_5784_5668929,00.html

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Agriculture Sector

17. *August 13, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **USDA proposes new testing regimen for the importation of eggs from regions where Exotic Newcastle Disease exists.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is proposing to amend its regulations regarding the importation of animal products. This proposed amendment will modify the testing requirements for importing of eggs (other than hatching eggs) from regions where Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) exists. This action is necessary to provide a more efficient and effective testing option for determining the disease status of egg-producing flocks. This proposal would keep the import restrictions in the U.S. current with the latest science while continuing to protect domestic poultry health from END. The proposed regulation amendment provides for the use of a statistically valid testing regimen which would ensure a timely and effective method in detecting infected birds. This amendment would eliminate the need for excessive testing. The new proposal would replace the current options for flock testing with a new testing regimen. The new testing regimen would require

that at least one cull bird be tested for the END virus at days 7 and 14 during a 21-day period for 10,000 live birds that occupy each poultry house certified for exporting table eggs. The tests and results must present no clinical or immunological evidence of END.

Source: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2007/08/tableegg.shtml>

- 18. August 12, Wichita Eagle (KS) — Bass virus found at Crawford.** Biologists have found a virus within largemouth bass at KS' Crawford State Fishing Lake. A decline in bass within the 150-acre lake led to testing for the disease appropriately called largemouth bass virus (LMBV). Kansas is the 18th state to confirm the virus that was first discovered in Florida in 1991. The appearance of the virus at Crawford is especially troubling because it's the water source for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Park's Farlington Fish Hatchery. Several other species of fish can have the virus, including smallmouth bass and crappie — though it's only been fatal to largemouths.

LMBV information: http://sports.espn.go.com/outdoors/bassmaster/news/story?page=b_conserv_lmbv_factsheet

Source: <http://www.kansas.com/sports/outdoors/story/146182.html>

- 19. August 10, USAgNet — Website to track soybean aphids.** With aphid populations nearing threshold levels, keeping up with the latest information on aphid infestation is critical. According to field scouting reports, numbers are reaching or have surpassed 250 aphids per plant in multiple locations throughout the Midwest, including MI, WI, OH and IN. A resource for tracking soybean aphids is a newly updated Web tool sponsored by Syngenta Crop Protection.

Soybean aphid tracking Website: <http://www.farmassist.com/aphidwatch/>

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=1865&yr=2007>

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Food Sector

- 20. August 13, U.S. Food and Drug Administration — Worldwide toothpaste recall.** Gilchrist & Soames, an Indianapolis, IN, based provider of toiletry products for the hotel industry, has initiated a worldwide recall of its Gilchrist & Soames toothpaste manufactured in China for the company by Ming Fai Enterprises International Co., LTD, after independent tests showed some samples of the toothpaste contained diethylene glycol (DEG). The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is not aware of any U.S. reports of poisonings from toothpaste containing DEG. However, the agency is concerned about potential risks from chronic exposure to DEG and exposure to DEG in certain populations, such as children and individuals with kidney or liver disease. DEG in toothpaste has a low but meaningful risk of toxicity and injury to these populations. This recall is being conducted in cooperation with the FDA. Hotels in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, Barbados, Dominican Republic or Turks & Caicos that received the recalled toothpaste from the company's U.S. distribution center, and those located in the UK, Ireland, Spain, Belgium, France, Italy, Germany, Switzerland and the UAE serviced by the company's UK distribution center, are being asked to destroy any remaining inventory.

Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/gilchristsoames08_07.html

21. *August 10, Associated Press* — **Sandwiches recalled.** About 7,500 sandwiches are being recalled from vending machines and convenience stores in six states. The sandwiches were made and distributed by IFS of South Elgin, IL. The company says no illnesses have been reported, but some sandwiches have tested positive for the listeria bacteria.
Source: <http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AI=D=/20070810/GPG04/70810076/1250/GPGLife>

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Water Sector

22. *August 12, Associated Press* — **Scientists, United Nations' agencies meet to discuss world's water needs.** Scientists, United Nations' agency representatives and professionals from more than 130 countries meet in Sweden this week to discuss the world's water needs and sources. World Water Week organizers said discussions at the meeting, which begins in Stockholm on Monday, August 13, will focus on global water sustainability.
Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/08/12/europe/EU-GEN-Sweden-World-Water-Week.php>

23. *August 10, Associated Press* — **Mexico grants border sewage plant permit.** The Mexican government has granted a key permit for a proposed \$700 million sewage plant in Tijuana, across the border from San Diego, CA, the company said. The approval is a victory for Bajagua LLC, which has been widely criticized for a no-bid contract with the U.S. government that was suspended in May. Bajagua is seeking money from U.S. taxpayers to build a plant in Tijuana that would treat 59 million gallons of Tijuana's sewage daily and recycle a portion of it for industrial use. Critics contend the sewage could be treated less expensively with a plant in San Diego. The privately held company says the proposed plant would stop raw sewage from running north over the U.S.-Mexico border into San Diego, where it courses toward the Pacific Ocean. Beaches south of San Diego to swimmers and surfers 198 days last year due to bacterial contamination.
Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2007/08/10/ap4008820.html>

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Public Health Sector

24. *August 13, Agence France-Presse* — **Indonesia confirms two more bird flu deaths.** An Indonesian woman and her five-year-old daughter on the tourist island of Bali have died of bird flu, a health ministry official confirmed Monday, August 13, bringing the nation's toll to 83. The deaths are the first on Bali, where the H5N1 strain of the virus was found more than a year ago. The 29-year-old woman died on Sunday, August 12, while her daughter died on August 3, said Bayu Krisnamurti, head of Indonesia's national bird flu commission. A two-year-old girl, a neighbor of the victims, was admitted to hospital on Sunday and is also suspected of being infected, he said.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070813/hl_afp/healthindonesiafutoll_070813074835;_ylt=AuVmZ4H0AO.Re3v3oYQ6DgmJOrgF

25. *August 13, Detroit News* — **Hospitals to screen for risky bacteria.** Some Metro Detroit, MI, hospitals will start swabbing the noses of arriving patients to test them for one of the most problematic bacteria, in response to the growing threat of drug-resistant infections. Those patients found carrying Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) — even if they don't have infections — will be isolated in rooms where hospital staff take special precautions (such as wearing gowns and gloves) to keep the organism from spreading. Faced with a rise in hospital-acquired infections that risk the lives of patients and cost billions of dollars annually to treat, hospitals across the country are aggressively trying to lower infection rates. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, health care-associated infections account for an estimated 1.7 million infections and 99,000 associated deaths each year in American hospitals. The infection is costly for hospitals. Each case of a MRSA infection adds about 10 days to hospital stays and \$30,000 to \$60,000 in direct costs per patient, said Marcus Zervos, division head for infectious disease and director of infection control for the Henry Ford Health System.
Source: <http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070813/LIFESTYLE03/708130312/1003/METRO>

26. *August 12, Agence France-Presse* — **Scientists pinpoint what makes West Nile deadly.** U.S. researchers identified a single genetic mutation that causes the West Nile virus to become far more virulent, leading to increased mortality in wild birds and, almost certainly, in humans. In an experiment, American crows, especially susceptible to the disease, died at a much higher rate — 94 rather than 31 percent — when exposed to the more lethal strain. Most cases in humans are benign, with only minor symptoms. But extreme cases can result in tremors, fever, coma, and a lethal swelling of the brain tissue known as encephalitis. Researchers showed that the same mutation was "positively selected," meaning that it "gives the virus a fitness advantage and enhances its ability to replicate," lead author Aaron Brault, from the University of California at Davis, told Agence France-Presse. This makes it easier for the disease to adapt rapidly to changing environments, with unpredictable consequences for human health, he said.
Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070812/hl_afp/healthdiseasevir us_070812181039

27. *August 11, Associated Press* — **Bubonic plague found in Flagstaff wildlife.** Health officials in Coconino County, AZ, say they've found bubonic plague in wild animals in a Flagstaff suburb. Two prairie dogs were found dead last month in Doney Park northeast of the city. A lab at Northern Arizona University confirmed the presence of the disease after testing fleas found in the animals' burrows. No human cases of the disease have been reported in the county since 1996.
Source: <http://www.kold.com/Global/story.asp?S=6918766>

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Government Sector

28. *August 13, IndyStar* — **After Virginia Tech, Indiana colleges strive for mix of security, serenity.** Colleges statewide are putting new measures in place to warn students quickly of shootings and other campus emergencies as they gear up to welcome their first new classes since the Virginia Tech tragedy on April 16. It's part of a nationwide effort to make schools

safer — without turning them into fortresses. Many of the universities are taking advantage of the latest technology, including powerful text–messaging systems designed to flash emergency notifications to tens of thousands of people within minutes. Also being used by some schools: key cards that can lock down buildings remotely; tornado sirens that broadcast messages campuswide; a notification system that can reach a person nine ways; and a system that works through Facebook, the social networking Website. Other schools, such as the University of Indiana, are briefing administrators and professors on the warning signs of at–risk behavior in students, as well as on how to seek immediate mental health intervention if needed. School mental–health professionals also have stepped up discussions about how to treat students who pose safety risks to themselves or others, a tricky proposition given strict rules regarding hospitalization of those who exhibit suicidal tendencies.

Source: <http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070813/LOCAL18/708130382/-1/LOCAL17>

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Emergency Services Sector

29. *August 13, Federal Emergency Management Agency* — Hurricane Flossie update. As of 5:00 a.m. EDT Monday, August 13, Hurricane Flossie was a low Category 4 hurricane with maximum sustained winds were near 135 mph. Flossie was located about 585 miles southeast of Hilo, HI, and about 795 miles east–southeast of Honolulu, HI. The current Hurrevac models on the present forecast track show Flossie passing 85 miles south–southwest of the Big Island on Wednesday, August 15, at 2:00 a.m. EDT. Winds at that time are forecast to be in the 90–105 mph range. Hurricane Force winds extend outward up to 40 miles. Tropical Force winds extend outward up to 105 miles. Tropical force winds are expected on the southeast side of the Big Island.

Source: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/reports/2007/nat081307.shtm>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

30. *August 13, VNUNet* — Black hat IPS reverse engineering poses 'serious threat'. A recently disclosed Black Hat hacker technique for reverse engineering intrusion prevention system (IPS) data poses a “serious risk” for thousands of enterprises, Gartner has warned. The analyst firm’s warning comes after a speaker at the recent Black Hat Briefings conference in Las Vegas demonstrated a method of reverse–engineering IPS signatures for zero–day vulnerabilities. The demonstration used signatures from 3Com's TippingPoint IPS, but Gartner notes that there is “an implication” that all IPS vendor's signatures are at risk. Paul E. Proctor, research vice president at Gartner, explained that enterprises use IPS technologies, which interpret external files containing signature definitions, to protect against the exploitation of vulnerabilities. However, when these patterns contain signatures for zero–day vulnerabilities, hackers can use this data to create exploit code based on vulnerabilities for which no protection exists. They can also use the signature file to write an exploit that bypasses the zero–day signature undetected, Proctor warned.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2196512/black-hat-ips-revealse>

31. *August 13, Register (UK)* — **Germany enacts controversial anti-hacker law.** Germany has introduced anti-hacker measures that criminalize the creation or possession of dual-use security tools. An update to the country's computer hacking laws makes denial-of-service (DoS) attacks and hacking assaults against individuals clearly criminal. Gaining access to data, without necessarily stealing information, would also become an arrestable offense. The most serious offenses are punishable on conviction by up to 10 years' imprisonment. Controversy centers around a provision in the laws that make it an offense to create or distribute "hacking tools," a notoriously ambiguous term. The distinctions between, for example, a password cracker and a password recovery tool, or a utility designed to run DoS attacks and one designed to stress-test a network, are not covered by the new law, critics argue. Possession of dual-use tools — port scanners such as nmap or security scanners like nessus — is punishable by imprisonment of up to 12 months and a fine.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2007/08/13/german_anti-hacker_law/

32. *August 12, ComputerWorld* — **UN Website goes offline hours after SQL injection attack.** "Hackers" defaced the United Nations' (UN) Website early Sunday, August 12, with messages accusing the U.S. and Israel of killing children. As of late afternoon, some sections, including the area devoted to Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, remained offline. The attack, spelled out by an Italian software developer on his blog and later reported by the BBC, replaced blurbs of recent speeches by Ban with text attributed to a trio of would-be hackers. The section of the UN's site dedicated to Ban was still offline as of 5 p.m. EDT Sunday. Giorgio Maone, a software developer from Palermo, Italy, noted the incident timeline and posted several screenshots of the defacement on his blog. Maone pegged the attack as an SQL injection exploit, which let the attackers add their own HTML code to the site.

Maone's blog: <http://hackademix.net/2007/08/12/united-nations-vs-sql-injections/>

Source: http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9030318&intsrc=hm_list

33. *August 10, InformationWeek* — **Toshiba recalls more laptop batteries.** Toshiba has issued its second recall in a month of Sony notebook batteries that could overheat and burst into flames. The latest recall, announced Thursday, August 9, by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, affects about 1,400 notebooks. The models include the Satellite A100 and A105, and the Tecra A7, which sell for as little as \$680. The recall stemmed from three reports outside of the United States of notebook batteries overheating.

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=201400284>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

34. *August 13, Associated Press* — Gunman charged in Missouri church shooting. Prosecutors on Monday, August 13, filed three murder charges against a Micronesian man accused of opening fire inside of a church in Neosho, MO, killing three people and wounding five others during a worship service of a mostly Micronesian congregation. Prosecutors also charged the man, Eiken Elam Saimon, 52, of Newton County, MO, with assault, felonious restraint for holding the congregation hostage, and armed criminal action. Another assault charge was pending, Newton County Prosecutor Scott Watson said. At a news conference, police and prosecutors declined to discuss the motive. But Watson told The Associated Press earlier Monday that the alleged gunman had targeted congregation leaders. The victims were not friends or relatives of the gunman, Watson said. Saimon was being held on \$5 million bond and was to be arraigned Monday afternoon in Newton County Circuit Court. The gunman had two small-caliber handguns and one 9 mm semi-automatic pistol with a large magazine, said Dave McCracken, Neosho police chief.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-08-12-church-shooting_N.htm

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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